

## **Flood Safety Information**

**Gas, water and power lines can be ruptured during a flood. Before leaving your property, turn off electric circuits and shut off gas and water valves.**

These simple steps can prevent losses due to fire and help mitigate the flood hazard during heavy rainfall:

- Monitor the level of water in streams and stay tuned to the radio or television for flood warnings.
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. “DON’T DROWN ... TURN AROUND.”
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to Duke Power at 1-800-769-3766.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don’t smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area is ventilated.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out their homes may seek shelter in your home. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.
- Keep children away from floodwaters, ditches, culverts and storm drains, and be especially cautious at night.

## **Property Protection**

There are steps that can be taken to flood-proof structures. Some of these include:

- Elevate the structure so floodwaters do not reach any damageable portion of the structure.
- Construct barriers between the structure and floodwaters.
- Make structural walls and floors watertight so water does not enter (dry flood-proofing).
- Modify the structure and relocate the contents so there is little or no damage when floodwaters enter the building.
- Prevent sewer backups and basement flooding by installing a one-way check valve in the sewer line.
- Elevate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, air conditioning equipment, water heaters and laundry equipment.
- Consider special flood-proofing techniques used in unusual flooding situations, including elevation on fill and elevation on reinforced mat slabs.

